



# COMING TOGETHER FOR NUTTING CREEK

HELP IMPROVE AND PROTECT OUR STREAM BY WORKING WITH THE NUTTING CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT.

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In 2004, Nutting Creek landed on the state's impaired waters list. But we can help improve and protect the 26.9-mile stream that weaves through Fayette and Winneshiek Counties. By working together on the land, we can make a change in the creek.

## TAKING A WATERSHED APPROACH

The Nutting Creek Watershed Project works together with local landowners and residents – rural and urban – to make changes on the land that drains into Nutting Creek (the watershed). Those changes slow erosion and filter water to prevent pollutants from washing into our water.

## KNOWING THE PROBLEMS

Nutting Creek was originally put on the state's impaired waters list in 2004 due to difficulty supporting aquatic life, like fish and insects, however this is no longer a limitation. The stream is currently listed for bacteria, specifically, high E.coli levels after rain. The 17,246 acre watershed is 72.4 percent cropland.

## SOLUTIONS FOR A CLEANER STREAM

Cleaner water in Nutting Creek starts by keeping excess soil, nutrients and bacteria from reaching the stream in the first place. The Nutting Creek Watershed Project aims to:

- Reduce animal waste, nutrient and sediment loading of Nutting Creek
- Inform and educate the community about the watershed
- Monitor water quality

To meet these goals, Carrie Davis, project coordinator, works with landowners to find what conservation practices work best for their land and the stream. Conservation practices, which are ways to manage the land for better water quality, can be structures, like ponds and wetlands, or fences that keep livestock from eroding stream banks. They can be plantings, like buffers and grassed waterways, that help slow water and prevent erosion. Conservation practices can also be ways of improved land management, such as using conservation tillage, which disturbs the soil less and leaves more residue on the surface.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways, large and small, that you can help your stream. You can volunteer with the project's water monitoring program or add new conservation practices to your property to reduce sediment and nutrients from reaching Nutting Creek. Financial assistance may be available from the watershed project to help you begin using conservation practices.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

Get involved by stopping by the Fayette NRCS office, 120 North Industrial Parkway in West Union, to visit with Project Coordinator Carrie Davis. You can also call (563) 422-3868 or e-mail [Carrie.Davis@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:Carrie.Davis@ia.nacdnet.net). You can also contact the coordinator to sign up for workshops, field days and other activities to learn about helping the creek.

The Nutting Creek Watershed Project is a partnership between the Fayette and Winneshiek Soil and Water Conservation Districts, local landowners and residents, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Upper Iowa University Biology Department, Fayette County Pheasants Forever Chapter, Fayette and Winneshiek County Conservation Boards, Fayette and Winneshiek County Sanitarians, Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development, and the City of Ossian.



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